

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1–20 (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A method of facilitating private instruction over a network between a teacher and a student, the method comprising:

receiving profile information associated with a student from a first client system;

transmitting, by a server system, a placement test to the first client system via a network;

registering, by the server system, the student in a course based, at least in part, on responses to the placement test received from the first client system;

arranging at least some of the profile information associated with the registered student in a queue of the server system, the queue further including different profile information associated with at least one other student; and

removing the arranged profile information associated with the registered student from the queue in response to selection indicia received from a second client system, the selection indicia being associated with a teacher of the course; and

initiating a discussion session, wherein the first and second client systems exchange at least some messages during the discussion session pertaining to the course independently of the server system.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the first and second client systems are located in different time zones.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the responses to the placement test are indicative of the student's proficiency in subject matter associated with the course.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the second client system is operated by the teacher of the course.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the second client system is operated by an administrator who matches the student with the teacher.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the profile information of the registered student identifies a preferred time of day and a preferred day of the week for exchanging messages between the first and second client systems.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the profile information arranged within the queue of the server system corresponds to students awaiting teacher assignments to the course.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the messages exchanged between the first and second client systems correspond to at least one of electronic mail messages, voice messages, and text messages.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the course is intended to teach a language that is not native to the student.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
forming, by the server system, an electronic mail account for the student, wherein the electronic mail account is used to exchange messages between the first and second client systems.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising:
transmitting, by the server system, information associated with the course to the first client system using the electronic mail account.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
transmitting, by the server system, web page information associated with the course to the first client system.